

What is claimed:

1. A coupling assembly for connecting sections of conduit together in a borehole comprising:
a first coupling member attached to an end of a first conduit, said first coupling member having an outer surface and a circumferential recess in said outer surface;

5 a second coupling member attached to an end of a second conduit and adapted for connection with said first coupling member, said second coupling member having an inner surface and an outer surface, said second coupling member having a circumferential groove in said inner surface and a slot in said outer surface, said slot positioned to provide access to said groove, whereby when said first coupling member and said second coupling member are in a connected state said groove aligns opposite said recess to form a passageway; and

a locking member adapted for insertion into said slot and into said passageway, said locking member providing resistance against forces tending to separate said first coupling member from said second coupling member when inserted in said passageway.

2. The coupling assembly according to claim 1 wherein said locking member includes a first reduced thickness area near a first end and a second reduced thickness area adjacent a second end so that said first end and said second end overlap when said locking member is fully inserted in said passageway.

3. The coupling assembly according to claim 2 wherein said locking member includes a handle adjacent said first end.

20 4. The coupling assembly according to claim 1 further comprising a second circumferential groove in said inner surface of said second coupling member and a sealing member adapted for positioning within said second groove when said first coupling member and said second coupling member are in a connected state.

5. The coupling assembly according to claim 4 wherein said sealing member includes a plurality of lobes on both an upper surface and a lower surface of said sealing member.

6. The coupling assembly according to claim 1 wherein said second coupling member has a belled region.

5 7. The coupling assembly according to claim 1 wherein said first coupling member has a tubular shape.

8. The coupling assembly according to claim 1 wherein said circumferential recess is wider than said circumferential groove.

9. A conduit for installation in a borehole comprising:
a first coupling member attached to a first end of said conduit, said first coupling member having an outer surface and a circumferential recess in said outer surface;
a second coupling member attached to a second end of said conduit and adapted for connection with a second conduit having a first coupling member with a recess in an outer surface, said second coupling member having an inner surface and an outer surface, said second coupling member having a circumferential groove in said inner surface and a slot in said outer surface, said slot positioned to provide access to said groove, whereby when said second coupling member is in a connected state with said first coupling member of said second conduit said groove aligns opposite said recess in said second conduit to form a first passageway and

20 a locking member adapted for insertion into said slot and into said first passageway, said locking member providing resistance against forces tending to separate said conduit section from said second conduit when inserted in said first passageway.

10. The conduit according to claim 9 wherein said locking member includes a first reduced thickness area near a first end and a second reduced thickness area at a second end so

that said first end and said second end overlap when said locking member is fully inserted in said passageway.

11. The conduit according to claim 10 wherein said locking member includes a handle at said first end.

5 12. The conduit according to claim 9 further comprising a second circumferential groove in said inner surface of said second coupling member and a sealing member adapted for positioning within said second groove when said conduit and said second conduit are in a connected state.

13. The conduit according to claim 12 wherein said sealing member includes a plurality of lobes on both an upper surface and a lower surface of said sealing member.

14. A method of assembling conduits in a borehole comprising the steps of:
providing to said borehole a first conduit having a first coupling member, a second conduit having a second coupling member, a sealing member, and a locking member, said first coupling member having an outer surface and a circumferential recess in said outer surface, said second coupling member adapted for connection with said first coupling member and having an inner surface and an outer surface, said second coupling member having a first circumferential groove in said inner surface, a second circumferential groove in said inner surface, and a slot in said outer surface, said slot positioned to provide access to said first groove, whereby when said first coupling member and said second coupling member are in a connected state said first groove aligns opposite said recess to form a passageway, said locking member adapted for insertion into said slot and into said passageway, said sealing member adapted for positioning within said second groove when said first coupling member and said second coupling member are in a connected state;

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connecting said first coupling member to said second coupling member; and
installing said locking strap into said passageway.

15. The method according to claim 14 wherein said sealing member includes a plurality of lobes on both an upper surface and a lower surface of said sealing member.

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